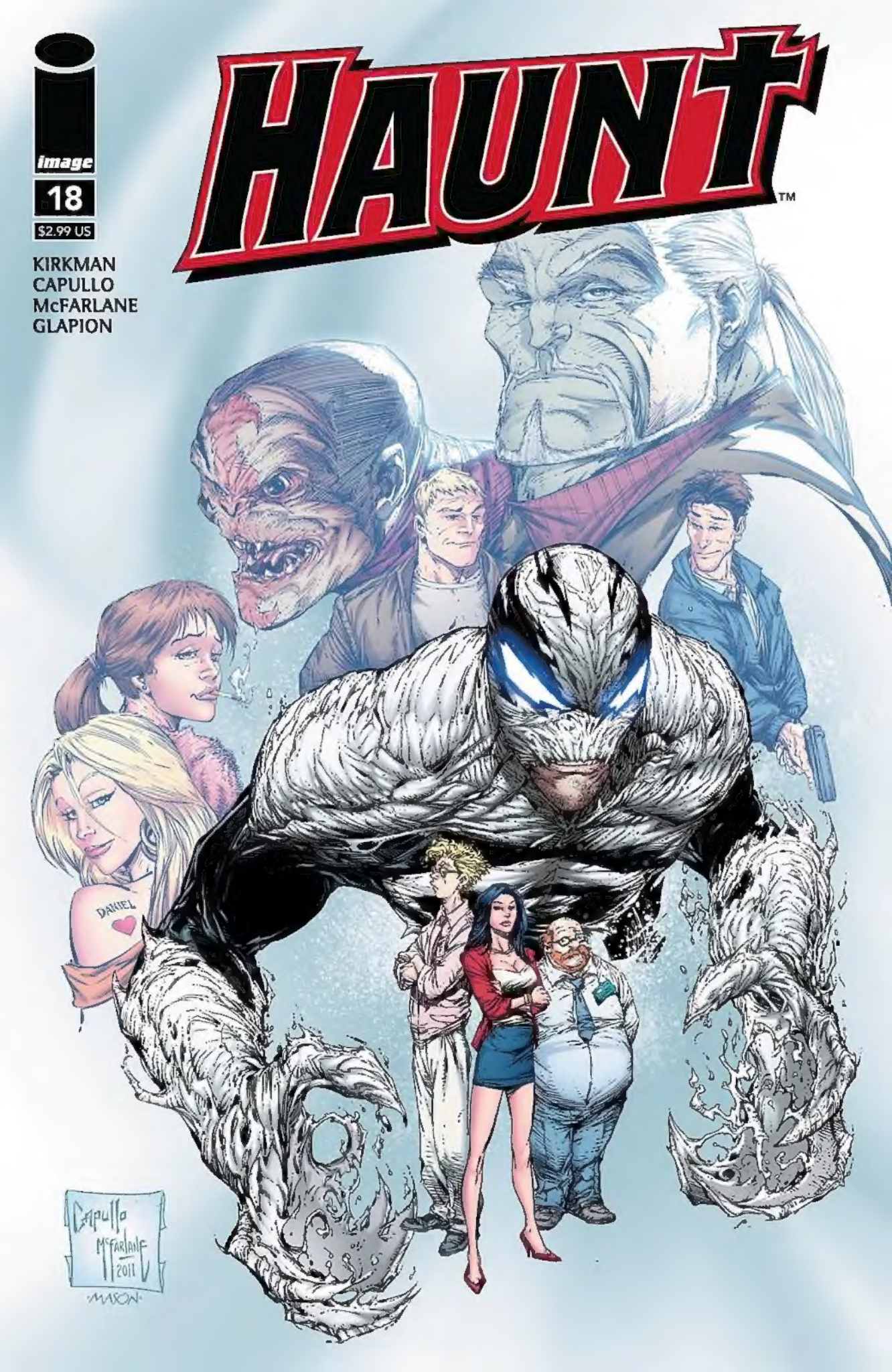
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image

YES, SIR. RIGHT AWAY.
OKAY.
BEEP
OKAY, BABY. I'M BACK.
YOU STILL THERE?
...
...

UNGH.
SHUFFE
SHUFFE
AMATEUR.

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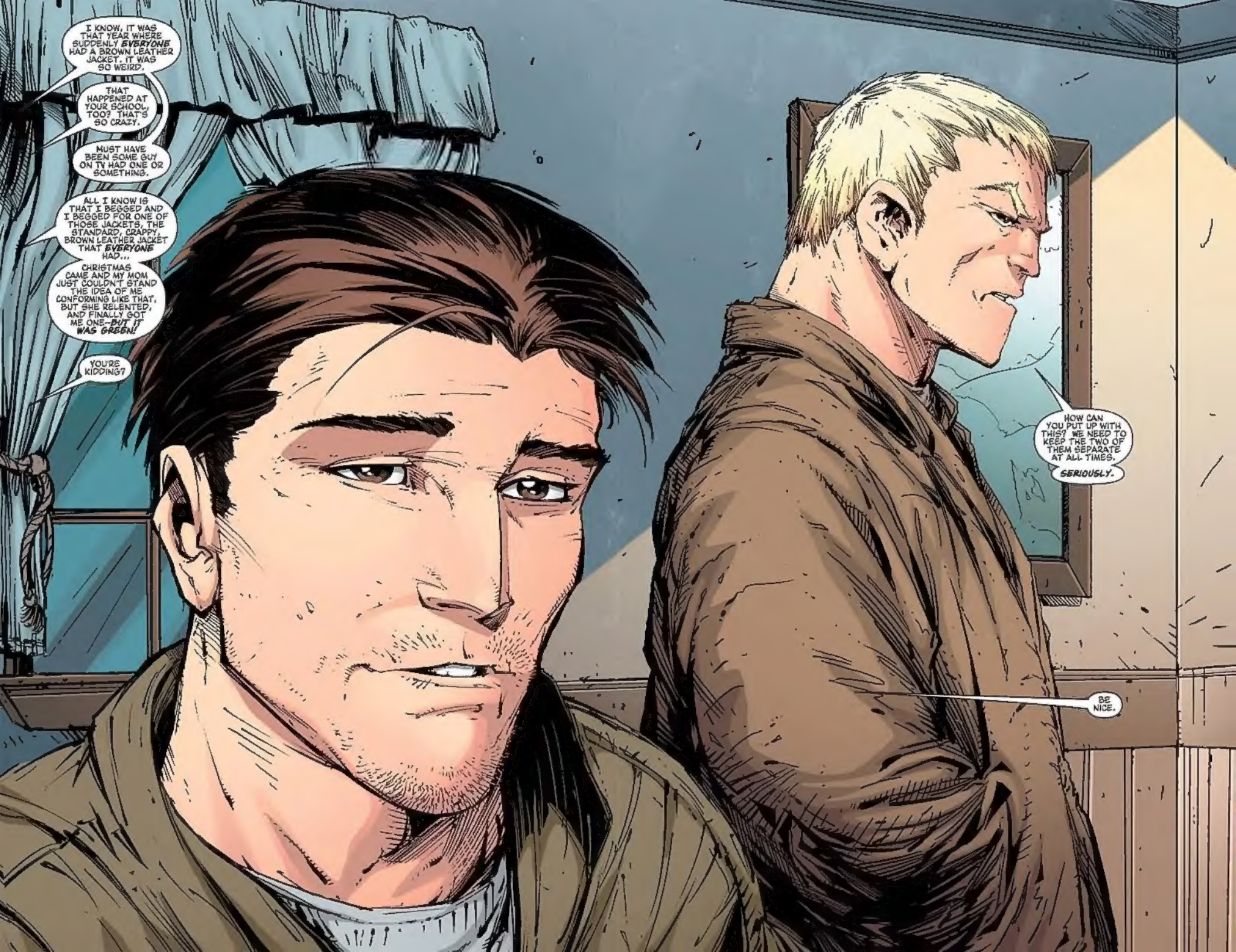
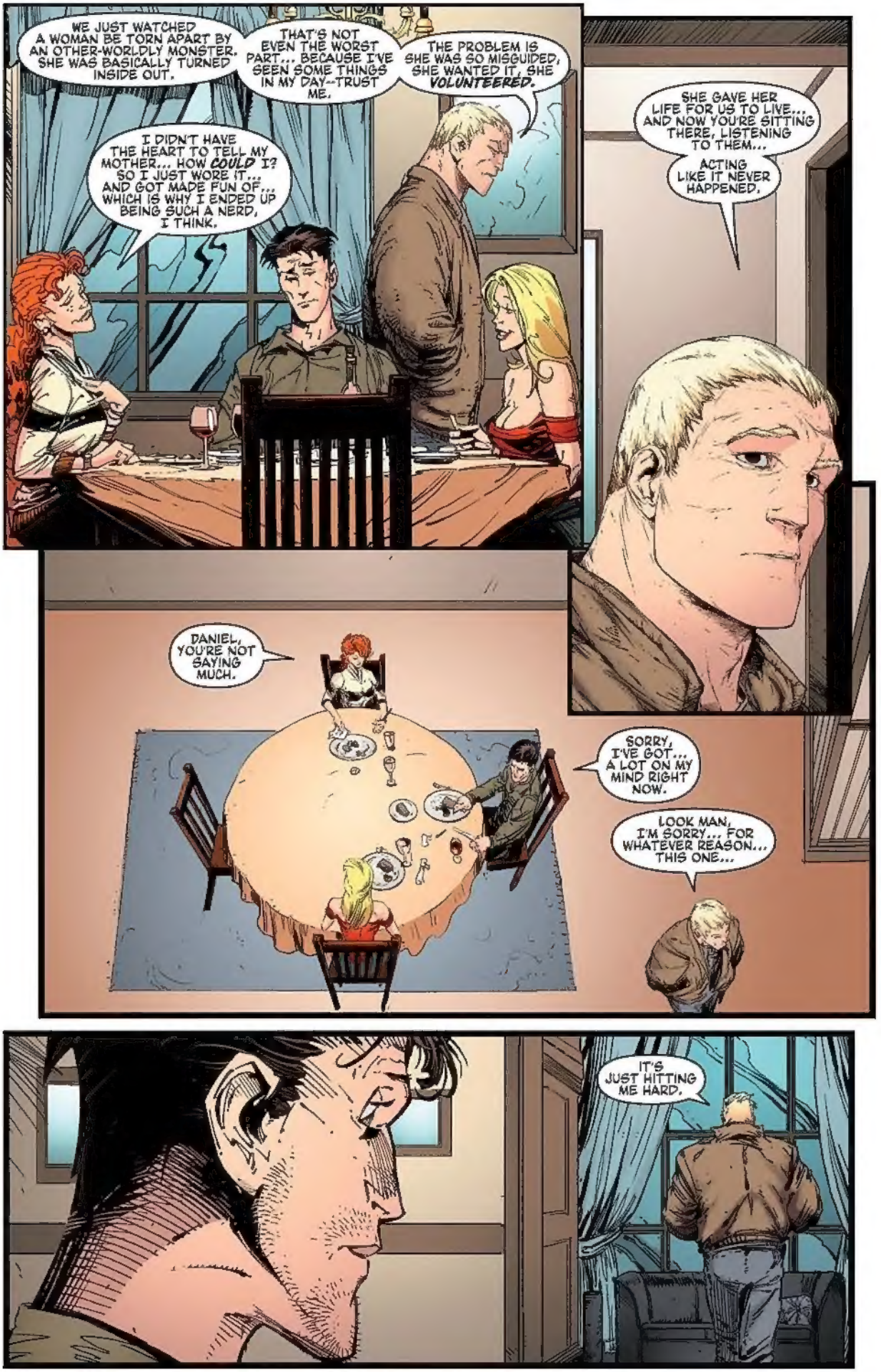
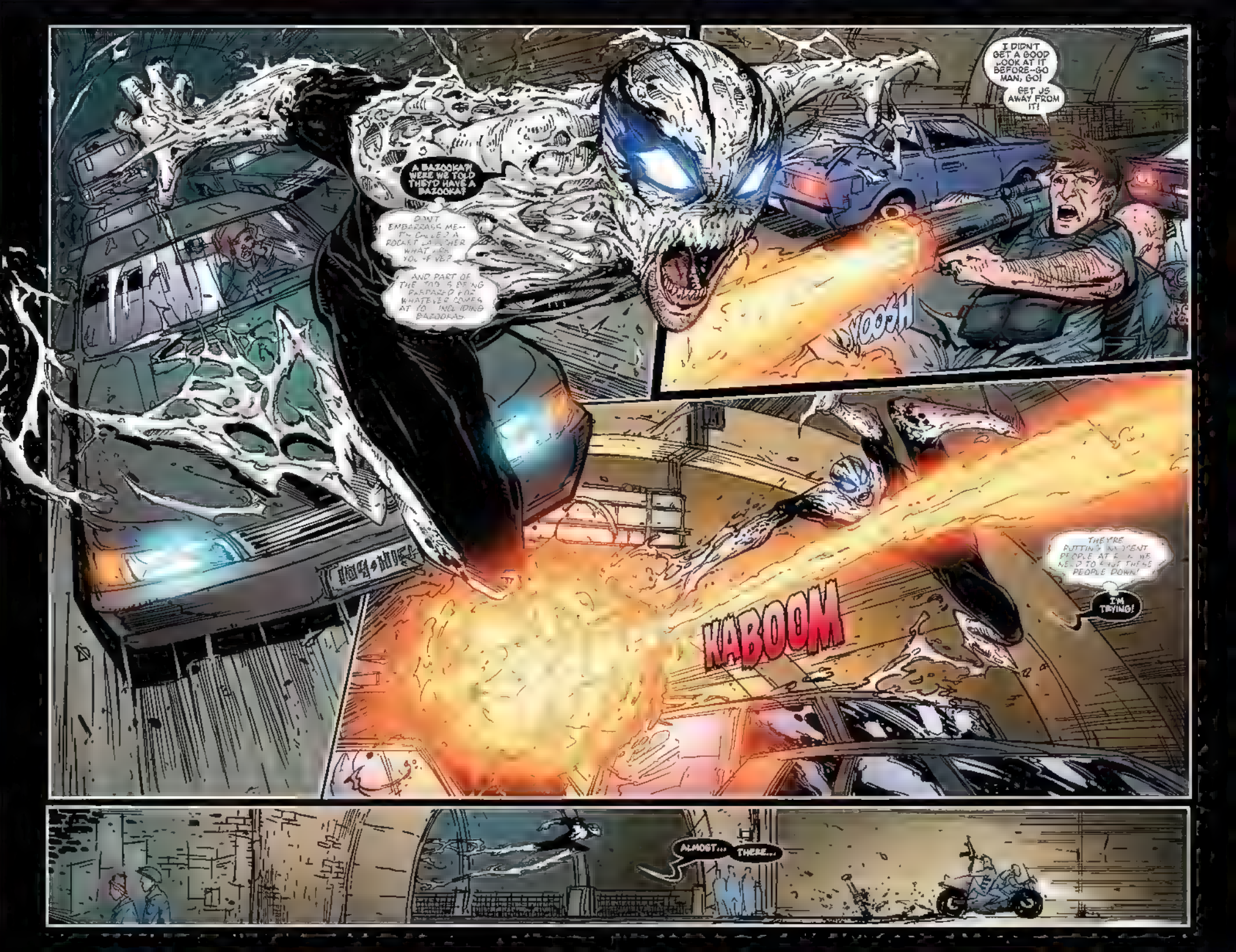

I KNOW, IT WAS THAT YEAR WHERE SUDDENLY EVERYONE HAD A BROWN LEATHER JACKET. IT WAS SO WEIRD.
THAT HAPPENED AT YOUR SCHOOL, TOO? THAT'S SO CRAZY.
MUST HAVE BEEN SOME GUY ON TV HAD ONE OR SOMETHING.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I BEGGED AND I BEGGED FOR ONE OF THOSE JACKETS, THE STANDARD, CRAPPY, BROWN LEATHER JACKET THAT EVERYONE HAD...
CHRISTMAS CAME AND MY MOM JUST COULDN'T STAND THE IDEA OF ME CONFORMING LIKE THAT, BUT SHE RELENTED, AND FINALLY GOT ME ONE--BUT IT WAS GREEN!
YOU'RE KIDDING?
HOW CAN YOU PUT UP WITH THIS? WE NEED TO KEEP THE TWO OF THEM SEPARATE AT ALL TIMES. SERIOUSLY.
BE NICE.


WE JUST WATCHED A WOMAN BE TORN APART BY AN OTHER-WORLDLY MONSTER. SHE WAS BASICALLY TURNED INSIDE OUT.
THAT'S NOT EVEN THE WORST PART... BECAUSE I'VE SEEN SOME THINGS IN MY DAY--TRUST ME.
THE PROBLEM IS SHE WAS SO MISGUIDED, SHE WANTED IT, SHE VOLUNTEERED.
I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL MY MOTHER... HOW COULD I? SO I JUST WORE IT... AND GOT MADE FUN OF... WHICH IS WHY I ENDED UP BEING SUCH A NERD, I THINK.
SHE GAVE HER LIFE FOR US TO LIVE... AND NOW YOU'RE SITTING THERE, LISTENING TO THEM...
ACTING LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED.
DANIEL, YOU'RE NOT SAYING MUCH.
SORRY, I'VE GOT... A LOT ON MY MIND RIGHT NOW.
LOOK MAN, I'M SORRY... FOR WHATEVER REASON... THIS ONE...
IT'S JUST HITTING ME HARD.

IN MY HEAD, I WANT TO BELIEVE COBRA KNEW I'D BEEN TAKING HIS ANTI-TOXINS JUST IN CASE I WAS EVER STABBED BY ONE OF HIS POISON BLADES.
WE'RE ALL SLAVES TO A HIGHER MASTER, IT WAS NEVER IMPOSSIBLE WE'D BE PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER.
STILL, I'M NOT LETTING HIM OFF THE HOOK, BEING STABBED IS NO PICNIC.
AND THE BOSSES--IF THEY THINK I WON'T GO TO WAR OVER THIS THEY'RE SADLY MISTAKEN.
THANKS FOR COMING TO PICK ME UP, RHODES.
IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHO TO TRUST AT TIMES LIKE--
SERIOUSLY?
YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE DRIVING WOULD KEEP ME FROM PUTTING UP A FIGHT, RIGHT?
THINK AGAIN!
SKREEEE

KROOM
H--
H--
HURG?

MOVE MOVE MOVE!
I'M PUSHING THIS BIKE TO ITS LIMIT! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
THIS WASN'T PART OF THE DEAL, MAN!
SHUT UP-- I'M HANDLING IT, I'M--
WHERE'D IT GO?


A BAZOOKA?! WERE WE TOLD THEY'D HAVE A BAZOOKA?
DON'T EMBARRASS ME--IT'S CALLED A ROCKET LAUNCHER WHAT--DO YOU--I'VE?
AND PART OF THE TAG'S BEING PREPARED FOR WHATEVER COMES AT US--INCLUDING BAZOOKAS.
I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT IT BEFORE--GO MAN, GO!
GET US AWAY FROM IT!
WOOSH
KABOOM
THEY'RE PUTTING TOO MANY PEOPLE AT RISK--WE NEED TO TAKE THESE PEOPLE DOWN!
I'M TRYING!
ALMOST... THERE...

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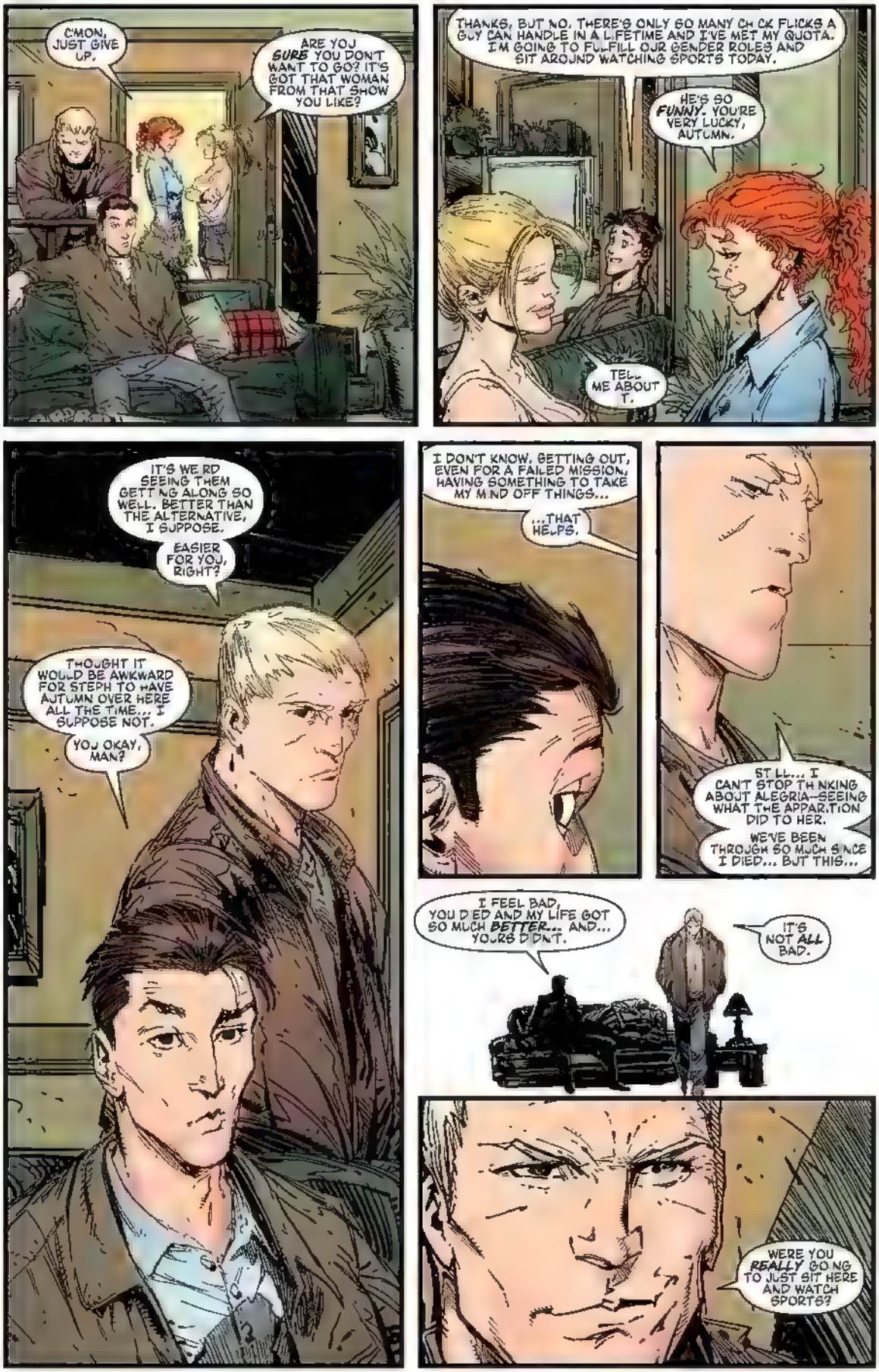
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT--SOMEONE COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.
IT WAS NECESSARY. I REALLY CAN'T SAY ANY MORE, BUT YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.
TRUSTING YOU, THAT WAS MY BROTHER'S THING. I DON'T HAVE THE SAME OPINION OF YOU.
DANIEL, BE NICE.
THE AGENCY SENT ME HERE TO RETRIEVE WHATEVER IT IS THOSE GUYS STOLE. I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT OF THE GAME.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THEY DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU WHAT WAS STOLEN?
THERE ARE LARGER FORCES AT WORK HERE.
I LEFT THE AGENCY BECAUSE I STARTED TO SEE GLIMPSES OF THE BIG PICTURE. WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY KNOW ABOUT THESE PEOPLE?
YOU'VE COMMITTED YOUR LIFE TO THEM--WHY? BECAUSE YOUR BROTHER DID?
KURT NEVER BOUGHT INTO THIS, BUT THE AGENCY CAN'T BE TRUSTED.
MAYBE YOU'RE SMARTER THAN THAT.
WE'LL SEE.
WELL?

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH...HOW MANY GUYS WAS IT?
HONESTLY, HONEY, THIS BOTHERS YOU WHY?
IT'S NEVER MATTERED BEFORE. WHY WOULD THE NUMBER BE SUDDENLY IMPORTANT?
I DON'T KNOW. I'M JUST... OKAY.
DROPPING IT. SORRY.
GOOD IDEA.
WHAT'S IN THE POT?
WE'RE HAVING OCTOPUS FOR DINNER. ONE TENTACLE FOR EVERY GUY I LET--
RING
THIS ISN'T OVER.
HELLO?
HE'S WHAT?!
HURG IS ALIVE?!
PACK YOUR SHIT, BITCH--WE GOTTA DISAPPEAR!


C'MON, JUST GIVE UP.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO? IT'S GOT THAT WOMAN FROM THAT SHOW YOU LIKE?
THANKS, BUT NO. THERE'S ONLY SO MANY CHICK FLICKS A GUY CAN HANDLE IN A LIFETIME AND I'VE MET MY QUOTA. I'M GOING TO FULFILL OUR GENDER ROLES AND SIT AROUND WATCHING SPORTS TODAY.
HE'S SO FUNNY. YOU'RE VERY LUCKY, AUTUMN.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
IT'S WEIRD SEEING THEM GETTING ALONG SO WELL. BETTER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE, I SUPPOSE.
EASIER FOR YOU, RIGHT?
THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR STEPH TO HAVE AUTUMN OVER HERE ALL THE TIME... I SUPPOSE NOT.
YOU OKAY, MAN?
I DON'T KNOW. GETTING OUT, EVEN FOR A FAILED MISSION, HAVING SOMETHING TO TAKE MY MIND OFF THINGS...
...THAT HELPS.
STILL... I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT ALEGRIA—SEEING WHAT THE APPARITION DID TO HER.
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH SINCE I DIED... BUT THIS...
I FEEL BAD, YOU DIED AND MY LIFE GOT SO MUCH BETTER... AND... YOURS DIDN'T.
IT'S NOT ALL BAD.
WERE YOU REALLY GOING TO JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH SPORTS?

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YEAH, THAT'S ALWAYS GOOD FOR CLEARING THE HEAD.
RIGHT. THAT'S ONE GOOD THING THAT'S COME FROM--
DO NOT MOURN ME.
FOOLISH, HAUNT...I AM NOT DEAD.
I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN...
SOON.

WELL, NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THIS...
TRY NOT TO GLOAT, IT'S VERY UNSEEMLY, AND I DON'T APPRECIATE IT. IT'S A HORRIBLE WAY TO START A RELATIONSHIP.
LIFE IS A CYCLE, SOMETIMES YOU'RE UP, SOMETIMES YOU'RE DOWN. MANAGING THOSE DOWNS IS WHAT PROVES THE MEASURE OF ONE'S WORTH.
I'D SAY THIS IS A MAJOR "DOWN" FOR YOU.
AND I WOULD AGREE. I RESOLVE MY FEELINGS OF FAILURE BY SEEING THIS NOT AS AN END... BUT AS A BEGINNING.
WE'VE BEEN ADVERSARIES IN THE PAST, LET'S NOT MINCE WORDS...ENEMIES. BUT I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED WHAT IT IS YOU TRY TO DO HERE.
AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, I, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT IS YOU REALLY DO HERE... AND THIS...
ENEMY
AGENCY.
YOU COULD BE DOING SOME GOOD HERE, BUT YOU JUST DON'T SEE ALL THE ANGLES, YOU CAN'T, YOU DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS.
AND YOU CAN PROVIDE ME WITH THOSE ANSWERS?
LADY, ALL I WANT TO DO IS LIVE. PROTECT ME AND I'M ALL YOURS.
OKAY. I'M WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU HERE.

DONE DEAL.
I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING IN BUSINESS W TH YOU, D.RECTOR TOSH.

POSTMORTEM

postmortem mcfarlane.com
twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane
facebook.com/liketoddmcfarlane

Hi everyone,

Now that issue #18 is put to bed, we've officially moved on to the new *Haunt* creative team! Joe Casey and Nathan Fox have cooked up quite the story for the coming months, and we can't wait to share everything with you.

For those fans that were able to attend NYCC, chances are you met the new creative team, and checked out the exclusive ashcan we produced for the con. For those who weren't able to attend, we thought we'd recreate the experience.

On the following pages are pictures from the *Haunt* new creative team signing with Todd McFarlane, Joe Casey, and Nathan Fox. There are also a few select pieces from our ashcan, giving you more insight into the direction our new creative team is going.

Get ready — the new nightmare begins ... NOW!

Jen Cassidy

Managing Editor

POST MORTEM

Todd McFarlane enjoying the Haunt team signing during New York Comic Con 2011 with Joe Casey and Nathan Fox.

Nathan Fox, Joe Casey and Todd McFarlane at the Haunt team signing during New York Comic Con 2011.

A view of the crowd converging on the Image booth for the Haunt team signing during New York Comic Con 2011.

Nathan Fox, Joe Casey and Todd McFarlane greet fans at the Haunt team signing during New York Comic Con 2011.

Next Issue: HAUNT #19

Cover subject to change.

An all-new creative team kicks off with a bold new direction! Brothers Daniel and Kurt Killgore have shared an ominous power, but things begin to unravel – for both of them – when a past tragedy comes back to haunt them. All-new action! All-new enemies! The new nightmare begins ... NOW!

NOVEMBER 2011

HEART #1

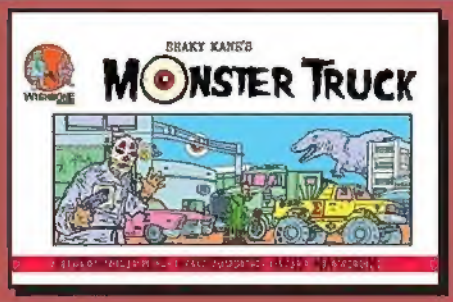
Mixed Martial Arts and comics collide when an office drone named Oren "Rooster" Redmond follows his older brother into the fiercely competitive world of professional MMA. With nothing left to lose, Oren hopes to find his purpose in fighting – but does passion equal proficiency? Does Oren truly have the heart of a champion? Find out in the first chapter of this four-issue series.

MUDMAN #1

A BRAND-NEW SUPERHERO COMIC BY PAUL GRIST! It's the first day back at school for Owen Craig, and it's not going too well. He's been run over, got detention, and his police officer father has been taken prisoner by armed bank robbers. And now his body seems to be turning into mud…

OUR LOVE IS REAL

THE FUTURE IS HERE! Plantsexuals riot in the streets for equal rights. Humans fall in love with dogs. And crystals are more than just jewelry. A chance encounter on the job changes a riot cop's life forever as he finds himself caught in a bizarre love triangle that blurs romance, crime, and lust beyond recognition.



SHAKY KANE'S MONSTER TRUCK

GET YOUR MOTOR ROLLING AND HEAD OUT ALONG COMIC BOOK ROUTE 666! Taking its stylistic cues from the silver age of comics, this graphic road movie by comics legend SHAKY KANE pans out over 50 continuous panels, taking the reader on a hallucinogenic journey into the very hinterland of popular culture. Deluxe, recolored, remastered second printing of the WISHBONE STUDIO cult classic.

- 27 SECOND SET #3 (of 4)
- ARTIFACTS #11 (of 13)
- AVENGELYNE #5
- BLUE ESTATE #7
- CARBON GREY ORIGINS #1 (of 2)
- CHEW #22
- DARKNESS #95
- ELEPHANTMEN #36
- GLADSTONES SCHOOL FOR WORLD CONQUERORS #7
- GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES #3
- GREEN WAKE #7
- HACK SLASH #10
- THE INFINITE #4
- INVINCIBLE #84
- LAST OF THE GREATS #2
- LI'L DEPRESSED BOY #8
- MORIARTY #6
- MORNING GLORIES #14
- NEAR DEATH #3
- PIGS #3
- REED GUNTHER TP VOL 1
- SAVAGE DRAGON #175
- SEVERED #4 (of 7)
- SKULLKICKERS TP VOL 2 FIVE FUNERALS & A BUCKET OF BLOOD
- SPAWN #213
- THE STRANGE TALENT OF LUTHER STRODE #2 (of 6)
- SUPER DINOSAUR TP VOL 1
- THE WALKING DEAD #91
- WITCHBLADE #149
- XENOHOLICS #2

CHECKLIST

For the latest Image Comics

The Third Degree: BLAIR BUTLER

IMAGE COMICS' MONTHLY Q&A SESSION

Blair Butler is a writer, producer, and on-air comic book correspondent for G4's *Attack of the Show*. Her first comic book, *Heart*, (with art by the fantastic Kevin Mellon) tells the story of a young cage fighter who is quite good at punching dudes in the face until they go to sleep. The first issue hits store shelves Nov. 2nd. She has also appeared on Comedy Central, E!, MTV, and wrote and directed a ridiculous zombie pilot for VH1, as well as G4's animated "Slasher School" series of animated shorts. You can see her weekly comic book reviews at www.G4tv.com/FreshInk.

What are you working on right now?
Wrapping up *Heart* issue #4 and writing/producing/corresponding for G4's *Attack of the Show*. So it's a good mix of scripting tragic, comic book punching -- and scripting "critical commentary" for videos of guys getting tragically punched in the nuts for a TV show. I'm also about to leave for New York Comic Con. I've been to NYCC every year since it launched, but this is the first year I'll be there with a book of my own. So that's a pretty good/slightly scary feeling. Plus, I'll get to see *Heart* artist Kevin Mellon there. It's like we had a crazy, comic book baby together – but we've only met in person once.

What's the best part of your job?
Getting to talk comics and MMA on a daily basis. Getting to meet great comic book creators – and great fighters. I'm also blessed to work with some really amazing people behind the scenes at AOTS. Oh, and sometimes we have wild animals on the set. Like a surfing llama. That was a pretty good day.

What's the worst part of your job?
Attack of the Show is five 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year, so there's zero down time. Have you ever seen a hamster running in one of those little plastic wheels? It's like that, but the hamster never gets off the damn wheel. Although instead of a water bottle, the hamster gets a coffee drip. So that helps. I also get to work with a few other incredibly talented writers on Attack, including comic book scribe Gerry Duggan (*Infinite Horizon*, *Last Christmas*).

How did you first discover comics?
My dad took me to Clint's Comics in Kansas City and let me buy whatever I wanted from the quarter bin. I grew up on old, discounted, dog-eared issues of *She-Hulk*, *EC Horror Comics*, and *Werewolf by Night*. Then, somehow I persuaded my dad to buy me "*Batman: The Cult*" at age, I dunno, 8 or 9. I'm sure he thought, "Hey, it's Batman, this is fine for a kid" – but at the time was one of the most violent mainstream comics ever released. And, of course, I loved it. Bernie Wrightson drawing an axe murder! In a Batman book! It was insane! So then I hunted down (Wrightson's) stuff on *Cycle of the Werewolf*, and all those Marvel Graphic Novels he did – which eventually lead to the *New Mutants MGN*... Basically, the *New Mutants* were my gateway drug. After the Batman axe murder.

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?
"You're not as fat as you are on TV."

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
This one is easy. Most influenced by Jason Aaron, Brian Wood, and Ed Brubaker. Most inspired by Gail Simone, Greg Rucka, and Jonathan Hickman.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
Honestly, *Heart*. It's a story I've been dying to tell – that just happens to be full of fellas beatin' each other up. And the old "Slasher School" animated shorts we did at G4. Naked Werewolf. Need I say more?

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
Project Runway and *Work of Art* on Bravo. So much drama. So much pretension. Also *Spartacus* on Starz. OH MY GOODNESS THE GRATUITOUS EVERYTHING!

What was the last comic book you bought?
Oh jeez. I mean, I buy boatloads. It'd be too hard to list them all. I buy about 40 bucks of new comics and trades each week. It's like having a crack habit.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Shelley Duvall.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
I could live without a lot of stuff. But life wouldn't be much fun without cupcakes, videogames (*Gears*, *Fallout*, *Uncharted*, *C.O.D.*, etc.), and good brunch places. I'm a power-brunchер. Sunday morning is my Friday night.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
A huge, Sideshow Collectibles, X-3 Beast maquette statue. Dude looks like a naked, blue werewolf. Also, I'll soon have the last page of Heart issue #1 framed and hanging on my wall – if you've seen it, you'd know why it's a...uh... "conversation piece."

What music are you listening to these days?
An odd mix. Some really good stuff for Heart though – if you read the book, the fighters' entrance music is big part of it. So songs like *Hometown Hero* by Big K.R.I.T. with Yelawolf, *Beautiful Losers* by Lupe Fiasco, and *Reach for the Sky* by Social Distortion.

What is your favorite film of all time?
Toss up between *Blade Runner* (Director's cut) and *Annie Hall*.

When was the last time you were truly frightened?
When I went skydiving. My hand was shaking so badly when I signed the release form – the one where you basically say, "I'm not gonna sue if I pancake to the earth and die," – that I could barely write my name. But I did it. And it was amazing-* (*-ly scary).

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
Totally selfish answer: I'd like to put more comics out into the world. I love this.

What the world needs now is...
To calm down. Everybody calm down.

the i word

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Question of the Month

what's your favorite tool of the trade?

"The internet. I live in Ontario, my artist in New York, colorist in Illinois, letterer in Michigan and publisher in California, but it all works thanks to web-tastic goodness."
Jim Zubkavich
SKULLKICKERS

"The pencil. Ever since my chubby toddler hands were able to grasp one, it's the one tool I've used consistently to this day."
Joshua Luna
WHISPERS

"My Wacom Cintiq tablet."
Joe Eisma
MORNING GLORIES

"My favorite tool for creating comics is definitely a program called Scrivener. It lets you write visually, so that I can see the pages as separate units that can be moved around. Perfect for outlining and story arc planning, and simple to use. Couldn't live without it!"
Joshua Hale Fialkov
LAST OF THE GREATS

"The most useful tool for any comic book creator is nagging, debilitating envy."
Tim Seeley
HACK/SLASH, BLOODSTRIKE

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NEW CREATIVE TEAM!

JOE CASEY
WRITER

NATHAN FOX
ARTIST

HAUNT

AN ALL-NEW NIGHTMARE BEGINS!

Unsaintly priest Daniel Kilgore is dragged into a life of murder and espionage ... by the ghost of his estranged brother, Kurt. A surprise fusing of Kurt's ghost with Daniel's body creates a chain reaction, turning the brothers into the character Haunt. Now fully trained, Daniel begins a new life away from the Parish he once knew. Dark secrets surface and things begin to unravel – for both of them – when a past tragedy returns to haunt them.

Featuring the all-new creative team of Joe Casey (*Butcher Baker the Righteous Maker and Godland*) and Nathan Fox (*Blue Estate, Fluorescent Black, Pigeons From Hell*), and a bold new direction, things are about to get really interesting for the brothers Kilgore! This assemblage of top-notch talent breathes new life into one of Image Comics' most popular new comic series – and leaves you wanting more.

NOVEMBER 2011

Check your local comic dealer or bookstore or call 1-888-COMIC-BOOK to find the comic book shop nearest you.

HAUNT #19

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